5th May 1962]

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : The total amount to the credit of the teachers is with the Corporation. Are the teachers free to withdraw these amounts as they have no further contributory system?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

Clinical laboratories

* 46 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the clinical laboratories attached to Government institutions are not open to private medical practitioners; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : (*a*) The clinical laboratories attached to Government Medical institutions are open to private medical practitioners also.

(*b*) Does not arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that certain medical practitioners when they referred cases to the clinical laboratories of the various State hospitals here, were refused the facility by the gentleman in charge of those laboratories?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : There is no such information with the Government. If the hon. Member brings to the notice of the Government any specific instance, that will be looked into.

Director of Public Health

* 47 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon .the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 536 on 16th December 1961 the reasons for the re-employment of the present Director of Public Health?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : The re-employment was ordered in the exigencies of public service.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : How many times was this gentleman re-employed?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : This is the third extension that has been given to him.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Are there very much qualified people under him?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : There may be qualified people, but at the moment I do not think that question arises.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is there not a lady with very superior qualifications serving in the department for a long time and on account of the re-employment of ths particular officer from time to time, her chances of acting as Director of Public Health have been jeopardised?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : There is no question of jeopardy at all because when the question of further extension is not considered in the case of the present Director of Public Health, I hope the claims of the person which the hon. Member has in mind will be considered.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Is it not a promotion post?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : Yes, it is a promotion post.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Then, why exercise the power of re-employment?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : Because the present incumbent has got the extension after retirement.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that the present incumbent is thoroughly physically unfit and that he was not sent to the Medical Board before re-employment as it is laid down in the Government Re-employment Rules?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : From what I see of him, I think he is physically fit.

MR. A. SREENIVASAN : A lay person is not competent to give an opinion on this point. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : The previous Minister gave the same reply. (Laughter.)

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : He became a doctor at one time. What I mean to tell you is that rules are specific in the matter of re-employment. Whenever a person is re-employed, he must appear before the Medical Board to get a physical fitness certificate. Only when he obtains a physical fitness certificate can the Government retain him. Or else the Government cannot retain him.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : I shall take the hon. Member's suggestion.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Now at least will the Hon. Minister agree to make that officer appear before a competent Medical Board to find out his physical fitness? It is in public interest I am saying it.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : If the hon. Member feels that the present Director of Public Health should be given another extension, I shall look into it. (Laughter.)